Report of Amnesty International on Torture of Tamils in Sri Lanka

1898. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Amnesty International, in its recent report, has revealed facts of extensive torture on the arrested Tamil by Sri Lanka's security forces; and

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government to stop such torture forthwith ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) The Amnesty International in its 1985 report state that it has received reports of torture and ill treatment of detainees by the security forces in Sri Lanka.

(b) The specific report of Amnesty International has not been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government.

However Government have repeatedly called on the Sri Lankan authorities to ensure that the security forces act with restraint.

Gas leakage

1899. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of cases of gas leakage in the country which occurred after the Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) what are the details of each case;

(c) what action the Central Government have taken to prevent such cases;

(d) whether the new industries are required to get clearance from the Ministry before issue of licenses; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Exact figures are not available. Cases relating to leakage of chlorine, ammonia and phosgene have been reported.

(c) Action taken by Government includes the following :

—Surveys have been and are being conducted to assess the safety measures in hazardous industries ;

—instructions have been issued for undertaking comprehensive safety audits and necessary measures thereof ; and

—procedure has been laid down for environmental clearance prior the issue of license and siting of polluting industries.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to procedure laid down for polluting industries the letter of intent will be converted into an industrial license only after the following conditions have been fulfilled :—

—The State Director of Industries confirms that the site of the project has been approved from the environmental angle by the competent state authority ;

—The entrepreneur commits both to the State Government and the Central Government that he will instal the appropriate equipments and implement the prescribed measures